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congressmen could aid their constituents to evade or to derive an undue benefit, they did so gladly; that the taxes were productive chiefly because of the uncontrollable wealth of the North and West; that the Union remained solvent in spite of itself.

Mr. Smith has confined himself to a compilation of facts taken from the public reports, the debates, and the financial journals. His book will have permanent value as a work of reference. He has rarely attempted to give conclusions upon taxation as a whole, and he makes no attempt to fit his fiscal history into the general social and political life of his period. His book is history of the most restricted type.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON

American State Trials. A Collection of the Important and Interesting Criminal Trials which Have Taken Place in the United States, from the Beginning of our Government to the Present Day, with Notes and Annotations. Edited by John D. Lawson, LL.D. Volume I. (St. Louis: F. H. Thomas Law Book Company, 1914. 857 p. \$5.00)

The purpose of this series is to supply the lack, long felt, of reports of the actual proceedings in the lower courts of the famous criminal trials of the United States. Provision has long been made by the states for the publication of all cases that appear before the courts of appeal, but since all the evidence is never there produced, much material of great interest to the public has naturally been lost.

In the introduction to this volume we learn that the present series has been undertaken to supply this need and it "will be continued until all the important criminal trials which have taken place in the United States from the first settlement of the country to the present time and of which it is possible to obtain a correct and accurate record have been presented to the profession and the public. The object of the Editor and Publishers of this important undertaking is to make it a complete record of *American State Trials*, to be contained in twenty volumes."

The sources from which these volumes will be compiled are the pamphlet reports of cases, the newspapers, and the records as preserved in the circuit or appellate courts. The volumes are to contain cases appearing not only before ordinary courts of justice, but also before courts martial, legislative bodies sitting as courts of impeachment, and ecclesiastical tribunals.

Such a series will undoubtedly prove of great interest and of great value, particularly to the historian, and it is to be hoped that the editor and publishers will be able to carry it through to completion, for on the whole the editing of this first volume is praiseworthy, although the general makeup of the book both in paper and type gives it a rather cheap

appearance. One mistake of importance has been committed in not attempting some order in the arrangement, either chronological or by subject. The editor is aware of the mistake and excuses himself on the plea that "reports of new cases are constantly coming to light." That excuse can hardly explain the absurdity of printing in this volume cases as far separated in time as are the years 1692 and 1863. Such a method of selection suggests the haphazard method of the amateur. The reader is assured, however, that the last volume will contain a "table of cases in the order of their dates."

C. W. A.

The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Civil War. By William Warren Sweet, Ph. D., assistant professor of history, Ohio Wesleyan University. (Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern Press [1912]. 225 p. \$1.00 net)

For some time attention has been called to American church history as a promising field for investigators. This volume, which was completed in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the doctor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania, well illustrates the prominence of a single denomination in a critical period of our history.

Nine chapters serve to emphasize the influence of the Methodist Episcopal Church as an aid to the national cause during the Civil War. Headings, such as "The Church on the Border"; "The Church in the Central and Northwestern States"; "The War Bishops"; and "Methodist Cooperation with Interdenominational Organizations," state accurately the chapter contents. The author has used most faithfully the extensive bibliography cited in chapter ix. A topic of so much importance as the influence of the church in the cleavage between eastern and western Virginia (pp. 54, 55) might well have been expanded.

Professor Sweet has done a piece of work that was worth the doing and it is gratifying to know that other theses are now in preparation which will present in some such form the influence of other denominations on this period of our history.

J. A. JAMES

A Collection of Some of the Most Interesting Narratives of Indian Warfare in the West, Containing an Account of the Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone. By Samuel L. Metcalf. Reprinted in *The Magazine of History with Notes and Comments*, Extra Number, No. 26. (New York: William Abbatt, 1913. 209 p. \$4.00)

We are assured by the editor of this reprint of a rare western item that there has been no reprint since 1821 and certainly the value of it as a source has justified this careful edition. It contains many narratives